

**REMARKS**

By way of this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended to include the phrase "What is claimed is:", which was inadvertently omitted from the substitute sheets submitted in the Article 34 Amendment filed during the international proceedings. The abstract has been amended to remove the reference numerals which are not required under US practice to ensure they are not misused by an infringer in an improper attempt to misconstrue the claims.

Applicant respectfully notes that the amended claims as reflected in the substitute sheets filed via the Article 34 amendment (and filed herewith in a substitute specification for the convenience of the examiner), have been held patentable by the USPTO in the international proceedings. Accordingly, this case must be taken up out of order for examination and allowance.

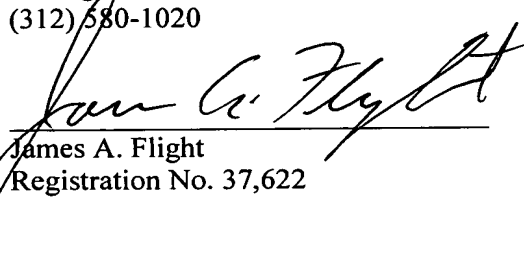
It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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